loan upto Rs. 25 lakh to the SSI units having good track record, removal of lower ceiling of Rs. 5 lakh loan to be eligible for guarantee cover under the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme etc.

Problems of SSIs

1084. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Member of Planning Commission studied the problems faced by the Small Scale Industrial Sector;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations and what is Government's approach towards these recommendations; and

(c) whether Government are ready to implement the recommendations, in order to address the problems of the Small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Government had set up a Study Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. P. Gupta, Member Planning Commission to study the problems faced by the Small Scale Industries (SSI) Sector and make recommendations thereon.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Study Group *inter-alia* included a single comprehensive law for SSIs, continuation of policy of reservation with periodic reviews in the context of the changing economic scenario, easier access to credit, marketing support, technological upgradation, improved infrastructure etc. to enable the sector to face the challenges of globalization of economy and international competition. Government considered the recommendations and announced a Comprehensive Policy Pakcage on 30th August 2000 to strengthen the SSI sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, which included all major recommendations of the Study Group. The implementation of the package has gone a long way in addressing the concerns of the SSI Sector.